

the Calico Mountains of southern California and others from Pleistocene or more recent deposits of the Rancho La Brea asphalt pits. A second posthumous publication was issued privately (Pierce, W. D. 1975. The Sand Dune Weevils of the genus *Trigonoscuta* with a correlation of their anatomy to the Geological History of our Coast Lines. 160 pp.). A few details of Dr. Pierce's study habits during his last years are contained in the Editor's Comments of the *Trigonoscuta* paper. He continued to do some teaching and to provide consulting service. He and his wife, who also has died, had no children.

Dwight Pierce seems to have been a consistently imaginative, studious entomologist, glad to tackle new and difficult problems. Even if not always successful in an outstanding way, he made important and unforgettable contributions. In the historical account reviewed here, he tried to plant new ideas for further investigation, though some may not appear orthodox now. During his career, medical entomology developed from its infancy as a discipline into a major speciality with outstanding accomplishments of international scope. From the time of his earliest participation in this speciality, during which he was associated with L. O. Howard, W. D. Hunter, and F. C. Bishopp, he appears to have been constantly recording the background events, trying to place developments in the context of fundamental principles, and explaining the subject to both the lay public and professional workers seeking more information. Throughout his career, he was a scholarly naturalist of the old school. At the time of his death he was one of the oldest members, in both age and length of membership, of the Entomological Society of Washington.

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#### NOTE

#### NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS FOR TWO SPECIES OF *NERTHRA* SAY FROM MÉXICO (HEMIPTERA: GELASTOCORIDAE)

A small collection of Gelastocoridae from México recently identified for Dr. Harry Brailovsky A., Instituto de Biología, México, D. F. included the following new distributional records.

*Nerthra spangleri* Polhemus, 1972. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 74(3):306.  
2♂ and 2♀, Isla Isabel, Nayarit, México, 31 Jan. 1976. J. Palacios.

Polhemus listed Sinaloa, Sonora and Colima in the original description, so the occurrence in Nayarit is not surprising. The species will undoubtedly eventually be found in Jalisco as well.

*Nerthra usingeri* Todd, 1954. Pan-Pac. Entomol. 30(2):116. A single ♂ collected on the Estacion de Biologia, Chamela, Jalisco, México, 5 Dec 1976, H. Brailovsky. This is first Mexican record for the species. It was previously known only from California.

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#### NOTE

#### A "NOCTURNAL" FORAGING RECORD FOR *DIOGMITES NEOTERNATUS* (DIPTERA: ASILIDAE)

Robber flies are generally considered to be diurnal insects usually being active between about 9:30 AM and 7:30 PM. However, some species, in particular those in the desert, have been observed to mate during the night (Lehr, 1959, Proc. Fourth Congr. All Union Entomol. Soc. 1:76-78; Lehr, 1964, Proc. Sci. Res. Inst. Protection Plants, Alma-Ata. 8:213-244 (In Russian); Newkirk, 1963, Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 56:234-236). In addition, Rau (1938, Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 31:540-556) reported *Deromyia ternatus* Loew foraging and capturing house-flies on a screen-door of a city shop at dusk. Presumably, this species was using the light from the shop to see and capture its prey. Since such behavior among Asilidae is infrequently reported, we would like to report the following similar "nocturnal" foraging behavior for *Diogmites neoternatus* (Bromley). It is also of interest to note that to our knowledge, this is the first published record of this asilid occurring in Virginia.

While collecting insects in the vicinity of Fairfax, Virginia, we frequently found *D. neoternatus* in open weedy fields, on the edges of forested areas and less frequently in the forests. We also found numerous specimens of this species trapped in the staircase of our three-story apartment building. *Diogmites neoternatus* have been found by other investigators in open areas of dry fields (Scarborough, 1974, Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 76:385-396), in clover fields (Artigas, 1966, Ohio J. Sci. 66:401-421), and moist bushy woods or fields (Bromley, 1931, Ohio State Univ. Mus., Sci. Bull. 1:3-19; Bromley, 1950, Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 43:227-239).

On 24 July 1976 at 12:15 PM, we observed several *D. neoternatus* resting on the walls of the aforementioned well-lit apartment building staircase,